

Nevada Indian Commission  
Education Advisory Committee for Native American & Alaska Natives  
March 12, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Main site: Western Nevada College, 2201 West College Parkway, Carson City, NV  
Videoconference sites: Fallon, NV; Las Vegas, NV; Elko, NV; Reno, NV; McDermitt, NV

Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Lori Pasqua, Pre-College Advisor, Douglas High School, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California and Vice-Chairperson, Indian Education Advisory Committee; Chris Ann Gibbons, Administrative Assistant, Nevada Indian Commission; Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional – Indian Education, Nevada Department of Education; Lynn Manning, Chairperson, Indian Education Advisory Committee and Indian Education Program Coordinator, Washoe County School District; Barbara Garcia, Youth Services Coordinator, Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School, Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California; Kari Emm, Transfer Recruitment Coordinator, University of Nevada, Reno; San San Tin, Education Director, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony; Starla Serawop, Native Workforce Development, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada; Cassandra Fred, Woodfords Representative, Education Committee, Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California; Gayleen Roy, Education Director, Yerington Paiute Tribe; Stacey Montooth, Indian Education Liaison, Churchill County School District; Cheryl Nelson, Clark County School District; Laura Watters, Moapa Band of Paiutes; Dawn Bruce, Social Services, Moapa Band of Paiutes; Fawn Hunter, Parent/Family Involvement Coordinator, Pyramid Lake High School

I. Invocation

- a. The invocation was given by Sherry Rupert.

II. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Lynn Manning called the meeting to order at 9:37am and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

III. Initial Public Comment

- a. There were no initial public comments made at the meeting.

IV. For Possible Action: Approval of January 9, 2012 Meeting Minutes

- a. Chris Ann Gibbons' name needs to be added to those present at the last meeting.
- b. With the changes made Lori Pasqua motioned to approve the minutes of January 9, 2012, seconded by Barbara Garcia. Motion carried.

V. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

- a. San San Tin announced on April 20<sup>th</sup> the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony in collaboration with the Washoe County School District will be holding a youth conference. More information will be sent out to Education

Directors soon and the deadline to submit application packets for the conference is April 6<sup>th</sup>.

- b. Lynn announced Pyramid Lake High School will be having their prom on May 12<sup>th</sup> at the Airport Plaza and it will be open to all native students. It will be a great opportunity for native students to get together. Also, on May 22nd the Washoe County School District in collaboration with the Center for Student Cultural Diversity will be hosting an ethnic student multi-cultural recognition for high school seniors with guests from all five recognized ethnic codes presenting.

#### VI. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Sherry reported she talked with the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) and was told they have not hired a Convention Director yet. We have requested a letter acknowledging Reno as the host of the 2016 Convention so that we can move forward with planning. Also, NIEA has requested a list of planning committee members for the 2016 convention.
- b. Sherry reported she will send out an e-mail to set-up a meeting with members of the tribal financial aid subcommittee.

#### VII. Indian Education Updates

- a. Fredina Drye-Romero from the Nevada Department of Education reported the Department will be announcing the name of the new Superintendent of Public Instruction today. She is preparing for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Indian Education Summit. Sessions will include information on tribal early childhood education, parent involvement, curriculum, financial aid in higher education and there will be a panel on collaboration. Also, the University of Nevada, Reno's Native American Student Organization will be a part of the Summit again this year, D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas will be the keynote speaker and the Pesa Namanedu Award will be given to the individuals who worked on the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada books on the Great Basin tribes.
- b. Dawn Bruce from the Moapa Band of Paiutes reported Laura Watters is the Tribe's new outreach worker and the tribe currently has 14 students enrolled in higher education. Dawn also noted she needed contacts at the College of Southern Nevada and University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The tribe also continues collaborating with the Clark County School District and both she and Laura will be attending the Indian Education Summit.
- c. Fawn Hunter from Pyramid Lake High School reported they are hosting a Senior Prom and a Native Youth Summit in May and she is working on promoting parent involvement.
- d. San San Tin from the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony reported their Head Start program will end in April and they will begin accepting applications for next year in July. Also, they are working on kindergarten transition for Head Start graduates, have 40-45 students enrolled in their after school programs at two local elementary schools, 5 students are enrolled in credit recovery and 75 students are enrolled in higher education and vocational

- programs. Lastly, the summer youth employment program will begin in June with 44 workers and the tribe is offering beading classes in both Reno and Hungry Valley and they are being taught by Michelle Tom.
- e. Lori Pasqua from the Washoe Tribe reported she is currently filling in as Education Director until a new person is hired for the new Coordinator position. Lori also explained the restructuring of the education program at the Tribe. They have met with the Carson City Superintendent and voiced the need for more contact and collaboration with tutors and staff. Also, the Odyssey credit recovery is still up and running and there will be a tribal youth summer program. Sherry asked Lori about the recent tension between American Indian and Hispanics in Carson City. Lori replied students have been affected by the recent tension and she did get a call from the advisor at Carson High School about this issue. The tribe is using Douglas High School as a model for counseling native students.
  - f. Barbara Garcia from the Washoe Tribe reported fifteen 9<sup>th</sup> graders from Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School will be getting a chance to do job shadowing with mentors in the community. The job shadowing is great for cultivating connections within a particular career field.
  - g. Gayleen Roy from the Yerington Paiute Tribe reported they have started Paiute language class again at the Senior Center and they will be having a college night for high school seniors. There is also tutoring in middle and high schools in cooperation with Lyon County School District and they are putting together parent support nights to strengthen parent involvement. The Tribe also has a genealogy program, basket classes and there is a willow class in Schurz every other Sunday. Lastly, they are trying to put together a project night where individuals can bring in craft projects to work on and visit and they are going to have a youth summer program.
  - h. Stacey Montooth reported for Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe. Fallon has implemented a 30 day extension on the interim Education Director's current contract and there will be a formal process of interviews soon for a permanent Director. Also, the Tribe has an after school program with 23-28 kids which focuses on tutoring and enrichment with School District transportation.
  - i. Stacey Montooth also reported for the Churchill County School District. The District will be sending a board of trustee's member to the upcoming Indian Education Summit. Also, at the high school there was an incident where a native student accidentally left his medicine bag in the locker room. When he went back to get it a teacher had confiscated it and was going through it. The student wasn't able to voice the ramifications of the teacher's action, cursed and was sent to the Principal's office. Stacey said the Vice-Principal called her and they were able to sit down with the student, his parents and a counselor and the student was able to convey how he felt. They were able to resolve the issue with the student and the Vice-Principal asked Stacey to present at the next staff meeting on the

meaning of the medicine bag. In the end she believes they were able to turn a bad situation into a positive one.

- j. Cheryl Nelson from the Clark County School District reported the annual college tour will be held April 3-5<sup>th</sup> and this year 23 students will be going to Utah. Also, they will be hosting a college readiness educational workshop on March 20<sup>th</sup> and their Title VII skills tutoring program will be closing in May. They are working with their student success advocates on how to help native students and are trying to align them with how school counselors work. This will streamline the counseling process for students and give them a better way to serve students and track needs because a lot of times students who are credit deficient do not tell parents and so they do not get help.
- k. Lynn Manning from the Washoe County School District reported her office is moving as a result of budget reductions. She will now be housed at Spanish Springs High School by the end of April. There are benefits to the move as there are a large number of native students at the school and she will be able to assist on the issues between the Latino and native students. Also, 1,430 native students have submitted 506 forms and the students come from 189 Federally Recognized Tribes, the largest count was from Pyramid Lake with just over 250 students, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony has just under 250 students and Nevada Tribes make up over ½ of the enrollment. Also, the five year evaluation is coming up for Title VII so the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and Nevada Urban Indians will help design the program on the basis of student needs. They will meet every week until the grant is due. Lynn said she has also been involved in district superintendent and administrator meetings on race. Every District Principal enrolls in a module and Lynn is facilitating a module entitled “Race – The Power of an Illusion.” There are discussions on issues including test bias and the need for a shift from color blindness to culture conscious to cultural proficiency. Also, they have partnered with the University of Nevada, Reno to bring Tim Wise to the University. Tim presented to a packed audience on how education is not equal. Lastly, she is working on curriculum with Fredina Drye-Romero and D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas will be talking with students at Spanish Springs on how to pull from their strengths to become successful.
- l. Kari Emm from the University of Nevada, Reno reported Ruby Kennison Fox has been hired to help with transfer students. Ruby has already created a transfer student page on Facebook and will be working with the Native American Student Organization. Ruby will also be meeting with the integrated marketing team to help develop other social media to communicate with transfer students and she is putting together a transfer ambassador club. Kari also reported she put together a transfer student focus group to find out why transfer students are not graduating, there is an application workshop on March 28<sup>th</sup> at Truckee Meadows Community College and the Board of Regents just approved a co-admissions program where a cohort of 50 students from various community colleges from

Nevada will receive advising. Sherry added she met with Dr. Reginald Chhen Stewart and he informed her that the Outreach and Retention Coordinator Position will open soon and it will be full time. The position will work with all populations and support American Indian students. Sherry urged committee members to make sure those interested take a look at the position when it is posted. Lastly, Kari said Native American Alumni Chapter is offering scholarships and Sherry announced the University of Nevada Reno Native American Graduation Reception will be held May 6<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

- m. Starla Serawop from the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada reported Native Workforce Development is working on their summer youth employment program and job readiness workshop and they are putting together a workshop on bullying.

VIII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- a. Financial aid subcommittee

IX. For Possible Action: Scheduling and Location of Next Indian Education Advisory Committee Meeting

- a. The next Indian Education Advisory Committee meeting will be held May 14, 2012.

X. Final Public Comment

- a. There were no final public comments at the meeting.

XI. Adjournment

- a. Kari Emm motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by San San Tin. Motion carried.
- b. The meeting was adjourned at 10:59am.